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EIGHT HONOURABLE
ANNUITANT
VINDICATED.

WITH

A Word or two in Favour of the *other*
GREAT MAN, in Case of his
RESIGNATION.

In a LETTER to

FRIEND in the COUNTRY.

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THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
ANNUITANT
VINDICATED.

DEAR SIR,

HErewith I send you the *London Gazette*, by which you will see that the important paragraphs of news, to which you would not give any credit in the common papers, are confirmed by the highest authority. I am always sorry to differ from you in opinion; but cannot help thinking that on this occasion you
B have

have exerted less than your usual candour. The *Great Commoner* has, in my mind, thrown up his employments with the same honour and the same spirit of disinterestedness that he took them up. He has retired with only a new dignity annexed to his family, and an ANNUITY, so small, so very inconsiderable and inadequate to the purposes of luxury and corruption, that he has been obliged to set his Coach Horses to sale by publick Advertisement. There is nothing so moving, saith *Seneca*, as a great man in distress. What can be more melancholy than a statesman on the *pavée*?—Yet has our bright Sun of Patriotism set with no less glory than he rose. He has received the Royal Thanks—he was *very near* receiving the City Thanks—and has gone out of power with

with the same *unembarrassed Countenance* that he came in.

There are, I think, three modes of ministerial Resignation. The first is, when a Great Patriot conceives a disgust at the baseness of any measures proposed by his companions in the Administration, and from a noble indignation quits their fellowship, lest his countrymen should account him a sharer in their guilt.—This seems to be the most simple and natural method, but is nevertheless much the most uncommon. The second is, when a Minister, in the stile of the news-papers, *resigns*, but is, in good truth, fairly *turned out*.—This method has been practised within all our memories. The third is, when a Minister, for the convenience of the Government,

vernment, resigns by private compact and agreement, and receives a certain *douceur* for his compliance.—This, thanks to the complaisance and humanity of the times, is the most modern mode : and to this the pliant and amiable temper of our GREAT COMMONER has chosen to submit.

But this, it seems, it is, which, being barely suggested in a news-paper, was capable of alarming you so sensibly, and of touching you to the quick with indignation and surprise.—What mere Weathercocks are you Country Gentlemen !—Once you looked upon this shining Meteor in politicks with dislike. Afterwards, on his efforts to make his way into the cabinet, and take the reins of power into his hands, you seconded his attempts, threw your whole
weight

weight into his scale, and prompted every corporation in *England* to honour him with their freedom in gold-boxes. But now you revert to your first principles, and begin to revive your antient sentiments of disapprobation.—And why? or wherefore?—In order to give your arguments, such as they are, fair play, suffer me to state all that you have urged, or can urge, in censure of the conduct of our GREAT COMMONER.

First then, you may say, that it is very unlike a Patriot to retire from the Administration of public affairs, at a time when the nation appears to be most in want of his assistance.—That to say he resigned his employments because he found it impossible to render to his country such services as he intended, is a weak plea; since it is
evident

evident, that had he resigned them in a *proper manner*, the voice of the people would have obliged him to resume them, and the measures he proposed, if at all plausible, would certainly have been pursued.

Secondly, That to retire with a PENSION, was to retire with ignominy and disgrace, in direct contradiction to the principles, which he has all along so openly avowed and professed,

To give these arguments the more force, let us suppose, That on the proposal of such terms to our GREAT COMMONER, as he appears to have accepted, that he, with the voice and gesture of *Demosthenes*, had replied somewhat in the following manner.

“ No.—Far be it from me ever to assent
 “ to terms, so derogatory to my honour,
 “ so unworthy of a Lover of his Country !
 “ Terms, at whose abject meanness I am
 “ shocked and disgusted, and whose CRI-
 “ MINALITY I consider with horror:—
 “ Terms, *which would hang, like a MILL-*
 “ *STONE, about the neck of the Minister,*
 “ who should disgrace himself by his ac-
 “ ceptance of them, and plunge him into
 “ the lowest gulph of popular contempt.—
 “ What part of my conduct could ever
 “ inspire my most bitter enemy with the
 “ lightest hope that I could be *bought off*
 “ from my duty, or that my name should
 “ ever be enrolled in the catalogue of PEN-
 “ SIONERS? Have I not always endea-
 “ voured to distinguish myself by my con-
 “ tempt of money?—Did I not publicly
 “ re-

“ resign to better uses the perquisites of
 “ lucrative employments !—And was not
 “ the first considerable acquisition to my
 “ fortune evidently made by the integrity
 “ of my conduct, and the steadiness of my
 “ opposition, to the measures of corrup-
 “ tion and venality ?—Whence, I beseech
 “ you, is the annual Sum, to which this
 “ PENSION amounts, to issue ?—It must
 “ necessarily be taken either from the pub-
 “ lic money or the Civil List.—And shall I
 “ lie like a burden or heavy impost on the
 “ People, or suffer myself or my family
 “ to become a Rent-Charge on the King ?—
 “ No ! it would ill become me, after such
 “ a condescension, to take my seat again in
 “ *that house*, where I have so often decla-
 “ red, That it would be better for that
 “ house,

“ house *, *if new parliaments were more*
 “ *frequent, and few Placemen, and No PEN-*
 “ *SIONERS admitted.*—Or with what grace
 “ can I permit my Practice to contradict
 “ my Theory, and prevail on myself to
 “ contribute towards running the Civil List
 “ into debt? when I have also laid it down
 “ as a maxim, that, † *It is inconsistent with*
 “ *the honour of this nation to have our King*
 “ *stand indebted to his servants or tradesmen,*
 “ *who may be ruined by a delay of payment:*
 “ *The Parliament has provided sufficiently*
 “ *for preventing this dishonour's being brought*
 “ *upon the nation; and if the Provision we*
 “ *have made should be MISAPPLIED or LA-*
 “ *VISHED, we must supply the deficiency; we*
 “ *ought to do it, whether the king makes*

* *Chandler's Debates, vol. xiii. p. 172.*

† *Ibid. p. 214.*

“ any application for that purpose, or no.—
 “ After such a declaration I should blush to
 “ divert the stream of his M—y’s munifi-
 “ cence into so mean a channel, or to draw
 “ my life and being from that source. I,
 “ that stood against corruption in my youth,
 “ will not set my integrity to bargain and
 “ sale in my old age; for,* *much, very much,*
 “ *is he to be abhorred, who, as he has ad-*
 “ *vanced in age, has receded from Virtue,*
 “ *and becomes more wicked with less Temptā-*
 “ *tion; who prostitutes himself for money*
 “ *which he cannot enjoy, and spends the re-*
 “ *mains of his life in the ruin of his country.*
 “ Rather, therefore, let me cherish ‡ *that*
 “ *Zeal for the service of my country, which*
 “ *neither HOPE nor FEAR shall influence me*
 “ *to suppress. I will not sit UNCONCERNED*
 “ *while my Liberty is invaded, nor look in si-*
 “ *lence*

* Chandler’s Debates, vol. xii. p. 282.

‡ Ibid. p. 283.

“ lence upon PUBLIC ROBBERY. I will
 “ exert my endeavours, at whatever hazard,
 “ to repel the Aggressor, and drag the Thief
 “ to Justice, whoever may protect them in their
 “ villainy, and whoever may partake of their
 “ plunder.”

In these rhetorical flourishes I think is contained all that can be advanced, with the least justice or propriety, in censure of the conduct of our illustrious commoner; nor can it be denied but that I have given them their full force, since I have introduced many of his own words, and some of those notable sentiments which he himself once vollied out, with all the dreadful artillery of eloquence, against the GREAT MAN of that day. But then it must be remembered, that we have not yet heard him on the

other side of the question. We have not yet seen him levelling the thunder of his oratory against the enemies of placemen and Pensioners. It is uncandid and ungenerous to condemn him, before you have heard what he has to say in his defence.

Audi alteram partem! If, in conformity to your suggestions, I have forced these words into his mouth again, I warrant you, he is capable of eating them, ay, and of digesting them into the bargain. It is not the first time, that he has spoke in favour of those very measures, which he once reviled; and having first taught us to hold them in abomination, afterwards reconciled us to his pursuit of them. If, after the warmest declarations against *continental connections*—if after the strongest opposition to remitting either men or money to Germany

many, and a downright refusal to consent to give the D--ke of C——d any assistance there, though in the most deplorable circumstances—If, I say, after all this, he could himself embrace *continental connections*, if he could send over men by ten thousands, and money by hundred thousands, and nobody be in the least offended or surprized—why may not he also, who has railed so long at PENSIONS and PENSIONERS, at last take a PENSION *himself*, and prove to the satisfaction of the whole world, that it is not the *thing done*, but the *how*, and the *why*, and the *when*, and by *whom* it is *done*, that constitutes the CRIMINALITY and offence!—May he not tell us, that three thousand pounds *per Year* is a poor reward for all his great and important services? And may he not consider it as a kind
of

of petty tribute from his rich conquests in the *East* and *West-Indies*, on the Coast of *France*, and on the *Ocean*? May he not plead his right to an *Otium cum dignitate*? May he not convince us of our mistake in imagining that VIRTUE *is its own reward*? and may he not tell us, that if we suppose the streets of *London* to be paved with silver and gold, we are as much to blame, as he is now sensible he was himself, when he pronounced the streets of *Oxford* to be paved with *Disaffection* and *Jacobitism*?

These things, with many others of equal weight, would undoubtedly suggest themselves to our GREAT MAN, even in an *extempore* reply to the charge brought against him, and even if it was taken on your own representation. But the accusation

sation is not fairly laid. He is neither unjust nor inconsistent. He has inveighed against PENSIONERS, it is true; and he may still continue to do so, for he has *no* PENSION.—No! what then?—Why, Sir, he has *an* ANNUITY—An ANNUITY—Not a bit of a PENSION, I assure you—for, as *Foigard* wisely distinguishes, “ if you take
 “ it *beforehand* it is a BRIBE, but if you
 “ take it *afterwards*, it is only a GRATI-
 “ FICATION.”—This is no *Bribe*, but a *Reward*, as witnesses *Quebec, Louisburg, Senegal, Goree, Guadalupe, Bellisle, &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.*—and is indeed no more than, when an old faithful servant gives warning that he will *leave his place*, just kindly dismissing him with a month’s wages. He has taken an ANNUITY then it is true, but no PENSION—only an AN-

NUITY for his own life; his Lady's life, and the life of his eldest Son—that is, an ANNUITY *for three lives*, for which I heard a Broker at *Jonathan's* say, that he would give Fifty Thousand Pounds, if it ever came into the Alley. An ANNUITY may also have some other properties different from a PENSION. PENSIONS are subject to a Tax—an ANNUITY may perhaps be exempt from this inconvenience, and be established to be paid out of the privy purse *clear of all deductions*: and in that case, if it should ever go to market, my friend at *Jonathan's* must allow that the Purchase-money would be still more considerable.—It must be allowed therefore that a PENSION and an ANNUITY are no more the same thing than an Egg and a Chicken—a *Pension* is but an *Annuity* in embryo,

embrio, but an *Annuity* is a *Pension* brought to perfection and maturity.—At the first exhibition of a *ridotto* in this country, the people were confounded at the novelty of the term, and did not know what it meant: upon which a wag stuck a paper to the back of one of the company, signifying, in large letters, *this is the RIDOTTO*. In like manner I would humbly propose, in order to distinguish this GREAT MAN from the mean *Band of Pensioners*, that a label be fixed to his back, with an inscription wrought in gold letters, like the G. R. on the cloaths of the beef-eaters, signifying in magnificent capitals, THIS IS THE ANNUITANT.

I am sorry, my dear sir, that you force me to stop here to answer the contrast

D

you

you have drawn between this *Great Man* and the other gentleman, who was honoured at the same time with himself, with the gold boxes.—HE, you say, retired without any *Pension*, nay even without an *Annuity*; and refused all reward or consideration for his services, except a title for his Lady, to which she had a kind of *hereditary* claim. Why, Sir—if this be true—I—I—I—that is—to be sure—you know, Sir—there is some kind of—In short I cannot dispute this point with you. Yet, notwithstanding your partiality to the gentleman you have instanced, you must allow that his political reputation has always been infinitely inferior to that of our *Great Man*. He has been no man of *words*, but of *deeds* only. His patriotism never made *that noise* in the world

world which was occasioned by that of his colleague ; and therefore could not so well afford such a drawback from his fame. On the whole, I may venture to allow your friend to be in this instance the superior character, and yet esteem the Great Commoner, *in the main*, as the most eminent and illustrious.—As to the dignity, in that affair he has behaved with as much modesty as his friend—nay, with still more—for the title by which he has chosen to distinguish his lady—*Lady Chat'em*——seems as if taken in jest——It sounds as ridiculous as king of *Brentford*, and seems merely calculated for one of the mock dignitaries in the *Dramatis Personæ* of a Comedy.

Prudence is universally allowed to be a great virtue—one of the cardinal vir-

tues—and yet, by I know not what fatality, it often encounters contempt, and is received with much less admiration than the three other cardinal virtues of *Justice*, *Temperance*, and *Fortitude*: though after all, Justice could in real life never make any thing more than a judge; Temperance is a mere valetudinarian; and Fortitude a captain in the *militia* at best; while Prudence might make a general, a statesman, a monarch, or any illustrious character under the sun. Prudence is the very life and soul of a GREAT MAN; and in the resignation of our illustrious Commoner, no virtue was more conspicuous than his Prudence. He *prudently* foresaw that there would be much trouble and difficulty in settling a peace to the liking of all ranks of people; wherefore he very

prudently quitted his employments; and afterwards very *prudently* also accepted a handsome provision for himself and his family.

Finding my brain big with matter on this part of the vindication of our GREAT MAN's character, and teeming with argument (insomuch that I am only confused by the multiplicity of my materials, and at a loss in what manner to arrange what I have to say) just at this time an inestimable original, most curious both as to its stile and matter, has offered itself, which not only corroborates all that has or can be advanced, but serves also to dispose my sentiments into method and order. The Country Journal of your own County has, I dare say, copied it
from

from our *London* papers, where I found it; but as I shall naturally make many references and allusions to it, it may be more convenient to have it all immediately before you. I have therefore transcribed it in this place.

*A Letter from a Right Hon. Person to his
Friend in the City.*

DEAR SIR,

‘ FINDING, to my great Surprise,
 ‘ that the Cause and Manner of my
 ‘ resigning the Seals, is grossly misrep-
 ‘ sented in the City, as well as that the
 ‘ most gracious and *spontaneous* Marks of
 ‘ his Majesty’s Approbation of my Ser-
 ‘ vices, which Marks followed my Re-
 ‘ signation, have been infamously traduced
 ‘ as

' as a Bargain for my forsaking the Pub-
 ' lick, I am under a Necessity of declar-
 ' ing the Truth of both these Facts, in a
 ' Manner which I am sure no Gentle-
 ' man will contradict: A Difference of
 ' Opinion with regard to Measures to be
 ' taken against *Spain*, of the highest Im-
 ' portance to the Honour of the Crown,
 ' and to the most essential national In-
 ' terests, (and this founded on what *Spain*
 ' had already done, not on what that
 ' Court may farther intend to do) was
 ' the Cause of my resigning the Seals.
 ' Lord TEMPLE and I submitted, in
 ' Writing, and signed by us, our most
 ' humble Sentiments to his Majesty, which
 ' being over-ruled by the united Opinion
 ' of all the rest of the King's Servants, I
 ' resigned the Seals on Monday the 5th of
 ' this

' this Month, in Order not to remain re-
 ' sponsible for Measures, which I was no
 ' longer allowed to guide. Most graci-
 ' ous publick Marks of his Majesty's Ap-
 ' probation of my Services followed my
 ' Resignation: They are unmerited and
 ' unsolicited, and I shall ever be proud to
 ' have received them from the best of
 ' Sovereigns..

' I will now only add, my dear Sir,
 ' that I have explained these Matters only
 ' for the Honour of Truth, not in any
 ' View to court return of Confidence from
 ' any Man, who with a Credulity, as
 ' weak as it is injurious, has thought fit
 ' hastily to withdraw his good Opinion,
 ' from one who has served his Country
 ' with Fidelity and Success; and who
 ' justly

' justly reveres the upright and candid
 ' Judgment of it ; little solicitous about the
 ' censures of the Capricious and the Un-
 ' generous : Accept my sincerest Acknow-
 ' ledgments for all your kind Friendship,
 ' and believe me ever with Truth and
 ' Esteem,

' My Dear Sir,

' Your faithful Friend, &c.'

And now, my dear Sir, let me ask you,
 if every word of this most valuable let-
 ter does not afford a strong confirmation
 of our Great Man's Prudence. It affords
 also an equal proof of his candour and
 veracity, *which I am sure no Gentleman*
will contradict : for it declares the Truth of
both these Facts to be, just what we all

conceived it to be before this epistle to his friend in the City was made publick. Perhaps, however, you rough boisterous country gentlemen might misapprehend this matter. You might possibly imagine, that he went bluntly to his Master, and said, “ Sir, if you will give me an *An-*
nuity of three thousand *per* year, I will
 “ resign,”—and so the Bargain was struck,
 —But how little agreeable would such a conduct be to his *Prudence*? Mark, how different the case really was. *Most gra-*
cious publick marks of approbation of my
service FOLLOWED *my resignation. Fol-*
*lowed—*Sir, do you observe?—and he knew that they *would follow* if he chose it—To be sure, he did; and there, Sir, there was the *Prudence*. *They* (that is the *Marks*) *are unmerited and unsolicited—*
 here

here again, Sir, his Prudence and Foresight are remarkable—He very *prudently* left *unsolicited* that which he knew would *follow*, and which he knew that he would not refuse. Modestly, therefore, to say *they are UNMERITED*, means no more than the *Nolo Episcopari* of a Bishop Elect, who is nevertheless equally sure of his Episcopacy.—Your inflexible *British* Spirit, stubborn as our Oak itself, may perhaps feel itself offended at some of the following expressions. *Lord T. and I submitted in Writing, and signed by us, our most humble sentiments to his Majesty, which being over-ruled by the united Opinion of all the rest of the King's Servants, I resigned the Seals on Monday the 5th of this Month, in order not to remain responsible*

for Measures, which I was no longer allowed to GUIDE.—This, perhaps, you will say, is acting and talking like his Master's Master, instead of his humble Servant, a kind of Lord Paramount over both K—g and M——y.——Not at all. —Every servant of his M——y, as well as of any other person in *England*, is at liberty to leave his *Place* when he pleases; and to leave it just when there is the most need of his assistance, only tends to heighten his consequence, and to shew that he is *one who has served his country with FIDELITY and SUCCESS.*—Did not several of the Greatest Men in the kingdom desert his late M——y, and throw up their employments, just when he was most in need of their services? and were not they all reinstated in their places?

May not therefore the GREAT MAN of our times too resign in the very Crisis of our affairs? and though he refuses to do any more for us, need he also refuse a reward for what he has done?—Well but then—*Measures, which I was no longer allowed to GUIDE.*—These, my friend, these, I see, are the words which you cannot digest, and which you think unbecoming the mouth of a private subject, nay almost even of a K—g in this country.—But let not your high stomach be offended at them. Our GREAT MAN has always habituated himself to a Grandeur of expression, as well as an elevation of sentiment. It would not be astonishing therefore, if he should now and then appear somewhat absolute; but in the present instance, he is a pattern of
 humility.

humility.—Take the whole sentence together, you will find that it is entirely metaphorical, and will admit of the mildest interpretation. *Lord T. and I submitted in Writing, and signed by us, our most humble Sentiments to his Majesty, which being over-ruled by the united opinion of all the rest of the King's Servants, I resigned the Seals on Monday the 5th of this Month, in order not to remain responsible for measures, which I was no longer allowed to GUIDE.*

Here you see he considers the council as so many servants in a family. One perhaps as the *Maitre d'hotel*, another as the Butler, a third as my lord's *own man*, and the rest as so many footmen, helpers, &c. To himself he seems to have assigned the province of the *Coachman*; and, in this situation, he has a right to remonstrate against their

pro-

proceedings: for to propose *measures*, which he is no longer allowed to GUIDE, while he is yet upon the box, is absolutely taking the whip and reins out of his hands. Suppose you were in your Coach and Six on a long journey in the middle of winter, in deep roads and bad weather, and that on the coachman's preparing to shew his skill in driving to an inch by the edge of a precipice, *the rest of the servants* were to bawl out to him to stop, and you yourself should insist on his going another way: In these circumstances, Sir, only suppose that the *Coachman* was to descend from his box, and coming to the coach door accost you in these terms: " Sir, You have been *the*
 " *best of masters* to me, it is true, but if I
 " go any other way than my own, I'll be
 " d——d.—I never overturned you in my
 " life,

“ life, and if you will *no longer allow me*
 “ to GUIDE, why then, by G—d, neither
 “ I, nor the *Postillion*, will drive you an
 “ inch further, and so you may get home
 “ as you can.”—Now, Sir, in such a case,
 though you might not chuse to run the risk
 of the precipice; or much like being left
 in the lurch if you declined it, yet, if he
 had been a good coachman, I do not see
 how you could justify refusing him a cha-
 racter. Nay, perhaps, if he had served
 you well, and was a favourite in the family,
 you would very probably give him and his
 wife *some little matter* to set up with in bu-
 siness, if they chose it, on quitting your
 place.—This is directly the case of our
 GREAT MAN—This is the very CAUSE
 AND MANNER of his resigning the Seals—
 and yet this has been grossly misrepresented

in the City, as well as the most gracious and spontaneous marks of his Majesty's approbation of his services, which marks, followed his resignation, infamously traduced as a Bargain for his forsaking the Publick. However, heaven be praised, he is and ever was little solicitous about the censures of the Capricious and the Ungenerous, and now he is retired from the Administration of public affairs, he is at leisure to pursue his private occupations. He may amuse himself with improving his little income in the alley, with buying out and selling in, and watching the various revolutions of the stocks: or he may lay it out in fashionable improvements of his house and gardens at H—y—s: or, if amidst the wonderful versatility of his Genius, he has any turn for Trade, he may, if he pleases, convert his

Annuity into one large capital, and then, being free of the *Grocer's company*, you know he may go into partnership with his friend the present L—d M—y—r, who is the most eminent in that business. In such a case, at how many thousand pounds might the very *good will* of the shop be rated at ! Would not all ranks and degrees of people be his customers ! Would not every Alderman's Custard contain his Sugar and Nutmeg ! Would not the *Sunday's* plum-pudding of every patriot mechanick be filled with his dried currants and raisins ? and would not every publick-spirited washer-woman in town purchase her halfquartern of *Bohea* at that shop ?

Having travelled thus far in vindication of the Right Honourable ANNUITANT, it gives

gives me unspeakable pleasure to find my sentiments of his Letter fall in so exactly with those of the Gentleman in the City, to whom it was addressed. : The answer, which he returned, considers the matter exactly in the same light that I have done, the defence that he makes is exactly of the same colour, and the reasons which he has urged in favour of his friend are equally strong and satisfactory. But take it, as you have had the other, at full length.

LETTER TO A RIGHT HONOUR- ABLE PERSON.

DEAR SIR,

THE City of *London*, as long as they have any Memory, cannot forget,

‘ that you accepted the Seals when this
 ‘ Nation was in the most deplorable Cir-
 ‘ cumstances to which any Country can
 ‘ be reduced : That our Armies were
 ‘ beaten, our Navy inactive, our Trade
 ‘ exposed to the Enemy, our Credit, as if
 ‘ we expected to become Bankrupts, sunk
 ‘ to the lowest Pitch , that there was no-
 ‘ thing to be found but Despondency at
 ‘ Home, and Contempt Abroad. The
 ‘ City must also for ever remember,
 ‘ that when you resigned the Seals, our
 ‘ Armies and Navies were victorious, our
 ‘ Trade secure, and flourishing more than
 ‘ in a Peace, our Public Credit restored,
 ‘ and People readier to lend than Mini-
 ‘ sters to borrow : That there was nothing
 ‘ but Exultation at Home, Confusion and
 ‘ Despair among our Enemies, Amaze-
 ‘ ment

' ment and Veneration among all Neutral
 ' Nations: That the *French* were reduced
 ' so low as to sue for a Peace, which we,
 ' from Humanity, were willing to grant;
 ' though their Haughtiness was too great,
 ' and our Successes too many, for any
 ' Terms to be agreed on. Remembering
 ' this, the City cannot but lament that you
 ' have quitted the Helm. But if Knaves
 ' have taught Fools to call your Resigna-
 ' tion, (when you can no longer procure
 ' the same Success, being prevented from
 ' pursuing the same Measures) a Desertion
 ' of the Publick, and to look upon you,
 ' for accepting a Reward, which can scarce
 ' bear that Name, in the Light of a Pen-
 ' sioner; the City of *London* hope, they
 ' shall not be ranked by you among the
 ' one or the other. They are truly sensi-
 ble,

ble, that, though you cease to guide the
 Helm, you have not deserted the Vessel;
 and that, Pensioner as you are, your In-
 clination to promote the publick Good,
 is still only to be equalled by your Abi-
 lity: That you sincerely wish Success to
 the new Pilot, and will be ready, not
 only to warn him and the Crew of Rocks
 and Quickfands, but to assist in bringing
 the Ship through the Storm into a safe
 Harbour.

“ These, Sir, I am perswaded, are the
 “ real Sentiments of the City of *London*; I
 “ am sure you believe them to be such of,

DEAR SIR,

Your, &c.

With

With what pathetick energy hath this *answering* Citizen recapitulated the great actions of his friend!—The good he has done us by coming into power, the evil that may ensue from his going out, and that he has, it seems, the whole city in a string, are circumstances, which, (to use the Answerer's words) *as long as we have any memory, we cannot forget.* You may perceive also in this answer something of the same complexion with my illustration of the Office of Minister, by the character of a *Coachman*; only that the judicious *Answerer* has with the utmost propriety, in this our maritime nation, transported the allusion from land to sea. Observe his words! *The CITY cannot but lament that you have quitted the HELM. But they are truly sensible, that,*
though

though you cease to GUIDE THE HELM, you have not deserted the vessel : and that, PENSIONER AS YOU ARE, your inclination to promote the publick good, is still only to be equalled by your Ability : That you sincerely wish success to the new PILOT, and will be ready, not only to warn HIM and the CREW of ROCKS and QUICKSANDS, but to assist in bringing the SHIP through the STORM into a safe HARBOUR.—With how much grandeur has the Answerer, even in the familiarity of the epistolary stile, maintained this noble allusion ! The allegorical genius of Bunyan himself could not have pursued it with more strict propriety and success ; or rather, to raise my comparison, the Answerer has rivaled even Horace in that exalted Ode, wherein he likens the Commonwealth to a Ship :

nay, he has even surpassed the *Roman*
 Poet, for by adding the *particular Customs*
 of our Age and Country to the *general*
 turn of the Allusion, which both writers
 possess in common with each other, he
 has most wonderfully strengthened and
 enforced it, and carried it much further
 than the *Latin* Lyrick could possibly do.
 It is well known that the noble spirit of
 charity and munificence, so peculiar to
 this country, gave rise to the noble insti-
 tutions of *Chelsea* and *Greenwich* Colleges,
 for the support of decayed Veterans in
 our service both by land and sea; and it
 is also further known that the old or dis-
 abled soldiers and seamen maintained by
 these charities are called **PENSIONERS**.
 To this it is that we owe, in the midst of
 such a cloud of naval terms, the intro-
 duction.

duction of those remarkable words, PENSIONER AS YOU ARE. The elegant Answerer, while he considers the State as a *Ship*; the holding the seals as *guiding the helm*; the Minister as the *Pilot*; the people, or perhaps only the Members of the House of Commons, as the *Crew*; bad Measures as *Rocks and Quicksands*; War as a *Storm*; and Peace as the *Harbour*;—at the same time heightens the similitude by looking on the Right Honourable Annuitant as a *Greenwich-College PENSIONER*; by which ingenious allusion to our own times and manners, he not only far transcends the Simplicity of *Horace*, but also furnishes us with an admirable idea of *Pensioners* in general. In both these Colleges, there are what they call *In-PENSIONERS*, and *Out-PENSIONERS*—some,

some, who constitute, as it were, the family of the Hospital, and others who may be said to be kept on Board-Wages.—And perhaps the only, or at least the best, Reason, why the whole Band of *Court-PENSIONERS* are not embodied and supported together in a college of this nature, is, that the number of *In-PENSIONERS* is so very small in comparison to that of the *Out-PENSIONERS*. The Right Honourable ANNUITANT, having resigned the Seals, is become, like many more of his Contemporaries and Predecessors, an *Out-PENSIONER*: but yet, *PENSIONER* AS HE IS, we are told, that he is not, like the rest of the *College*, a disabled mariner—a decayed veteran that has lost either his strength or abilities in the service—but one that has both inclination and ability

for the public service still remaining—one that is ready to *warn*, as well as to *assist*.
 —In this new light, wherein the *Answerer* has exhibited his friend, he may be considered as a broken officer, who is still retained on half-pay, and remains ready to be called out on any future occasions of service—at least he may be said to have the benefit of the *College*, while he is still on board the vessel; or, what is still more desirable, he is at liberty to *lie by* and receive his pay, or help to work the Ship, just as he pleases. He may swing at ease in his hammock, in the midst of the storm, and content himself, like the *Irishman*, with saying, *that he is only a Passenger*; or he may haul a cable, reef a sail, make his voice and his whistle as rough and as loud as the Boatswain's,

and be as busy, astern or abaft, below or aloft, as any man in the vessel.—In a word—to set the simile adrift, and speak in plain terms, our GREAT MAN has now most *prudently* thrown himself into a situation, in which he may, even with more consistency than heretofore, embrace any measures, however opposite or contradictory. He is ready, as the Answerer tells us, either to *warn* or to *assist*: that is, he is ready, just as occasion shall serve, either to acquiesce peaceably in the measures of the Administration, as other PENSIONERS have done; or else to exhibit himself to the world in the very new and singular character of a PENSIONER IN OPPOSITION—a PATRIOT-PENSIONER, or in its proper and peculiar phrase, a *Right Honourable ANNUITANT*.

To

To you perhaps, my dear Sir, it may appear strange and unaccountable, that he should be able to reconcile to each other two such contradictory characters; and that while he eats the bread of the court, he should oppose the measures of the Administration. But this, Sir, is the distinguishing excellence of his temper and conduct. Your stubborn patriotism, like the needle stedfast to the pole, points always one way; but the new mode of patriotism, like the weathercock changing with every wind, knows how to veer and turn, and is ready to adapt itself to times and their seasons, things and their circumstances—*In or out—for or against*—just as their convenience suits, or occasion requires.—*Demosthènes*, the great Orator of *Greece*, forfeited the reputation of integrity, which he had al-

ways

ways maintained till that period, by receiving a bribe from *Harpalus*, in consequence of which he appeared in the assembly, muffled about the throat, and made signs, that he was not able to deliver a Syllable. It appears from hence, that it was not the receiving the bribe, but the holding his peace, by which *Demosthenes* injured his fame. But our great Orator is ready to convince the world, that no *Reward* shall tie his tongue, or bind his hands; and that it shall not be imputed to him, as it was to *Demosthenes*, that he is affected with a *Gold or Silver Quinsy*.—I have just mentioned *Demosthenes*, because in the list of patriots it is always usual to thunder out a long muster-roll of *Greek and Roman Names*: but I will venture to say that there is no Patriot of all antiquity more eminent
and

and illustrious, than our Great Commoner has proved himself to be in his late Resignation.—If the elder *Brutus* is so much to be commended, because he could prevail on himself to give up the nearest and dearest part of his family to publick justice, how much more applause is due to our modern *Brutus*, who could manifest his confidence in the publick and love to his family at one and the same time, by throwing *them*, as well as himself, on his country for support? If the other old *Roman*, who, when he left the affairs of the publick, retired to his farm and turnips—But it is vain and needless to recur to *Greece* and *Rome* for comparisons, or to draw parallels between the Great Men of Antiquity and those of our own times, when we can so much more properly compare our cotemporary statesmen

to each other. Indeed, when I consider with how much *prudence* the Right Hon. Annuitant has withdrawn himself from business, just when it was likely to become most troublesome; what a snug provision he has acquired for himself in his retirement; and how calm and unconcerned he may sit amidst the general hurry and confusion;—I cannot compare him so justly to any other object, as to the *other* Great Man, who has so long been the most principal director of our affairs. That accomplished *M——r*, on a late publick occasion, found himself in a situation exactly parallel to that of our Great Commoner at present. In the midst of the noise and bustle of the Coronation, he retired, unobserved by all, to the *Privy Chamber*, where some ladies of the Court accidentally dis-

covered him *easing himself* most philosophically of every troublesome appendage to luxury and greatness, enjoying the comfort of his retreat, *straining* beyond the reach of vulgar faculties, and surrounded with every symptom of felicity and *good luck*.

Having accidentally mentioned the *other* Great Man, I cannot conclude this tedious Letter, without adding a word or two in *his* favour : and as it is the opinion of many persons, and, I fear, the invidious wish of many more, that he likewise will shortly find it expedient to *resign*, I think that the Crown and the People are each bound in honour and gratitude to make *him*, also a handsome appointment, as well as the Right Hon. Annuitant. It would be hard indeed, as *Mat Prior* has it, *if one mouse eats while*
t'other

t'other starves ; or that we should take such provident care of our *right-hand* Statesman, and leave our helpless *left-handed* Minister in the lurch ; since he is at least a *limb* of the *body politic*, though not of equal use with his *fellow*. He has been so grossly reviled for the wretched peace, which he *hammered out* for us in 1748 ; that I doubt he will scarce try his hand to *tinker up* another. I beg leave therefore (as I own myself under obligations to him) to urge a few arguments in his behalf, to shew why he ought to be allowed at least as good a *Pension*, if an *Annuity* be thought too peculiar an indulgence, as any of those eminent personages, who have lately been removed : and I much question, notwithstanding the great number of his own extraordinary largesses of this nature, whether he will

find many men, besides myself, thus grateful to him, when he is out of Power. And the first general Reason I will presume to give, is this :

That it would be a disgrace indeed upon the Government and the whole nation, if *he alone* should go unrewarded for his long, wonderful, and inexpressible services. I believe I may venture to assert, that scarce any body of late has been dismissed without *this publick mark of approbation following their resignation.*—And why should he?—Some, perhaps, who belong to the honourable list of Pensioners, have had their names more carefully and *prudently* concealed than others; but if the truth was known, and a fair and honest Register of *Pensioners* was made out, and laid before
the

the Publick, I am persuaded, we should find many great and worthy names, that have long lain dormant, and such as few, except the honourable fraternity themselves, ever could suspect.

Another strong argument in his favour is, that he has been as long in a *lucrative employment*, if not longer, than most of his predecessors or contemporaries, and consequently deserves as large, if not a larger *Pension*, than any of them.—This is but strict justice according to the invariable *golden* rule of modern politicks.

A further reason for putting this act of gratitude speedily in execution, is, that, such of late has been the profusion of grants of this nature, that there is some doubt whether

there will otherwise be treasure sufficient to answer so large a demand left in the Exch—r. It may be necessary perhaps, on this occasion, to call in aid *another kingdom*, which is tolerably well loaded already, and will scarce be able to receive many more of these worthy gentlemen, sent over by this *honorary* kind of *transportation*. And, by the bye, I cannot help thinking, that our Great Men ingrafted on that stock, ought to carry some distinguishing mark of their belonging to that country. Suppose, therefore, that, in these cases, a Silver Badge of S. P. for *St. Patrick*, should be worn on the left shoulder; and when any persons are provided for on the *home list*, I would have a golden badge for the Right shoulder, with S. G. upon it, for *St. George*, with the additional honour to the Wearers,

that

their names and *titles*, written in capitals, should be hung up in *St. George's* chapel above the list of the Poor Knights of *Windsor*.—But to return ;

Whilst I have been inadvertently tempted to expatiate on the general nature of these largesses, this very digression has suggested to me the strongest argument in behalf of this Great M—r.—To sum up every reason that can be urged in one short question, let me only ask you, whether it would not be a most unnatural reproach on the gratitude of the nation, if that person, who has generously bestowed so many great and honourable *Pensions*, should remain in want of one himself? *Petimusque damusque vicissim*, says that honest verse of *Horace*, founded in gratitude. This, I think, should be the Motto of the whole *Band*, and should be stuck up in a conspicuous

cuous part of the Beef-eater's room at court, to shew every body, as they enter, what favours Statesmen may expect from each other : and the same device might be properly used in another *certain place* for the information of young m——rs.—Upon the principles of this axiom, the expedient I would propose to provide for this Great Man, is, that every L—d or C—r in this Kingdom, or the neighbouring one, possess of a Pension, exceeding 1000 *l. per* year, should, by way of poundage, make him an allowance of 5 *l. per cent.*—and then *be* too will perhaps be provided for, pretty near equal to his merits—more at least than any other person—as well as have both his shoulders properly decorated, according to the abovementioned Proposal.

Ha-

Having thus endeavoured (as bound in gratitude) to carve out a handsome provision for this Great Man, as well as the other, it is high time to conclude. - I cannot however take my final leave of you, without lamenting the general despondency which you tell me the *Secession* of the Right Honourable Annuitant occasions in the Country. Much of it appears also in town: but in my mind it argues a poor and mean spirit, unworthy of *Britons*, unworthy of men. Have we, for Heaven's Sake, but ONE honest and able man among us? I should be sorry to hear even our enemies say so. I will venture to say that there is at least ONE MORE, of whom I have a better opinion, than even of our Great Man. The Person I mean is no other than THE KING. He has al-

ready manifested the truest affection for his people: and why should we be alarmed or disturbed at the cabals and intrigues of our *fellow-servants*, when we are assured of the care and protection of our MASTER? He knows the just limits by which his Power is circumscribed, and desires not to enlarge its bounds. In like manner let every officer of state honestly perform the duties of his place, and aim at nothing more! While they bawl in opposition, they complain that power is dangerous in the hands of a Minister; but when they get into power themselves, they dare to complain of being manacled and fettered. The Power of the *British* Constitution is lodged in no ONE Man, or Set of Men, but collectively in the Whole People. It were to be wished, therefore, by all

HONEST

HONEST MEN, that this frightful *Chimæra* of a PRIME MINISTER—GREAT MAN—or whatever he may call himself—that has so long stalked between the Throne and the people in this nation, were totally annihilated: and as is generally said, that, at the late Coronation, his present Majesty found himself obliged to be *his own* BISHOP, *his own* HERALD, &c. happy would it be for *Great Britain*, if it should prove an Omen, that in this auspicious reign, He will be found also to prove HIS OWN MINISTER.

I am, my Dear Sir,

Your, &c.

P O S T

P O S T S C R I P T.

October 22, 1761.

I Cannot forbear the triumph of adding
 a Postscript to transmit immediately to
 you the following Paragraph from the *St.*
James's Chronicle of this Evening.

*At a Court of Common Council held this
 Day at Guildhall, a Motion was made, that
 an Address should be presented to the Right
 Hon. William Pitt, Esq; for his past Ser-
 vices. After several Speeches against the
 Motion, by a learned Deputy, the Ques-
 tion*

tion was put; and upon holding up of Hands, there appeared.

For addressing Mr. Pitt - - - 109

Against it - - - 15

Whereupon a Committee was appointed to draw up the said Address; and also, at the same Time, to request of Mr. Pitt, that he would continue to pursue the same Patriotick Principles upon which he has hitherto acted.

This, I hope, will thoroughly convince you Country-gentlemen of your error. Our honest Citizens, you see, know his merits: and though his name, as an *Annuitant*, has been published and printed, like the Bankrupts, in the *London Gazette*, yet the sagacious Com-
mon

mon Council have no less opinion of his being a *good Man* on that account. Perhaps they consider a Statesman, who becomes a PENSIONER as a *broken Patriot*—a *Bankrupt* in Politicks—and it is not to be doubted but the Right Honourable ANNUITANT will convince them, that such a man, like *other Bankrupts*, can set up again, and drive a more thriving trade than ever he did before.

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